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This conference will address a host of issues on friendship, intimacy and health such as, among others, healthy intimacy and sexuality, the importance of cross-cultural communication, health risks, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, leadership and volunteering opportunities.

**The conference takes place on
May 12-13, 1995
at the Erb Memorial Union,
University of Oregon.**

The format will include plenary sessions, breakout sessions, student panel and a mini health fair. The Conference will feature two keynote speakers, **Milton Tam** - from Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, Seattle, and **Donna Reed** - from People of Color Against AIDS Network, Seattle.

For further information contact
Naghme Moshtael, Health Education Program, Student
Health Center, at 346-2728



UO Student Health Center
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YEAR'S STAFF. APPLY BY MAY 15 AT THE EMERALD OFFICE,
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Medicare faces debt, cuts



WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare will run as much as \$165 billion

short of what it needs to pay hospital bills over the next decade, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said Tuesday.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., urged the Clinton administration to quit feuding with Republicans over their budget plans and help them solve the problems confronting the health plan for the elderly and disabled.

But Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala said, "Mr. Chairman, we cannot destroy Medicare in order to save it." She cautioned that deep cuts in the program could imperil rural and inner-city hospitals, or shift costs onto small businesses and individuals.

"Solutions focused solely on Medicare could cause great harm," she said.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., the Budget Committee chairman, later unveiled a budget blueprint that envisions saving

\$256 billion from Medicare over seven years.

That compares with the \$147 billion to \$165 billion that Packwood said was needed to keep the hospital fund in the black for 10 years.

The hearing was the fourth in a week at which Republicans sought to dramatize the perils ahead for the \$175 billion health insurance program and to accuse President Clinton of refusing to offer a remedy.

"All by itself, apart from the budget issue, apart from health reform, Medicare is a problem," said Packwood. "Medicare is going bankrupt and we have an obligation, Republicans and Democrats, to try to keep it from going bankrupt."

The only ways to avert the shortfall are to raise taxes, which nobody proposes doing, Packwood said, or to "slow the growth of Medicare from its current 10 percent-plus to something more like 7 percent" a year.

Shalala said the administration backs managed care, but not "financial coercion ... to force seniors into HMOs. Neither do

we believe that managed care is the cure to all the troubles of the trust fund."

She expressed doubts about giving the elderly private vouchers or replacing Medicare with medical savings accounts and catastrophic-only coverage.

"While medical savings accounts might have some appeal to the young, to the healthy and to the wealthy, most of our seniors are none of these," said Shalala.

She said the administration would not rule out an idea floated Monday by Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., chairman of the House Ways and Means health subcommittee. He called for raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67 in the next century as Social Security's age for full benefits goes up.

But Shalala cautioned that such a move could "increase the number of people who have no health insurance in this country."

Packwood said that every year that Congress delays, Medicare's problem "becomes more difficult" to solve.

Canada warns: 'Smoking can kill you'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The difference was stark: The entire top third of one Camels pack warned in black that "cigarettes are addictive," while tiny blue letters on the other pack merely said smoking may hurt pregnant women.

Both packs are made in North Carolina, but the black-tagged Camels are sold only in Canada, anti-smoking activists said Tuesday. They demanded Congress strengthen U.S. tobacco warnings, saying teen-agers particularly are hurt by "the double standard."

"We believe that American children are just as deserving of an honest and fair warning about the powerful addiction of tobacco as Canadian children," wrote the Coalition on Smoking Or Health, which delivered the contrasting Camels to every member of Congress.

U.S. tobacco companies sell products similarly branded as addictive and dangerous in Australia, Thailand and Singapore, although at home they insist tobacco does not hook smokers.

To sell abroad, companies have to run the required warning even though "it violates what we believe to be the science on addiction," said Maura Ellis of R.J. Reynolds, maker of Camel cigarettes.

Americans don't need stronger warnings because studies show a high awareness, even among children, of smoking's risks, said Tobacco Institute spokesman Thomas Lauria.

Congress writes the four warning labels on

tobacco sold in this country, which rotate four times a year. They range from "cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide" to "smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy."

Tobacco foes say the warning isn't effective — that it's too vague, doesn't mention addiction and is so small that most smokers don't read it. They want the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco as a drug — a move that would automatically strengthen the warnings by requiring cigarettes to bear the same kinds of detailed labels as potent medicines.

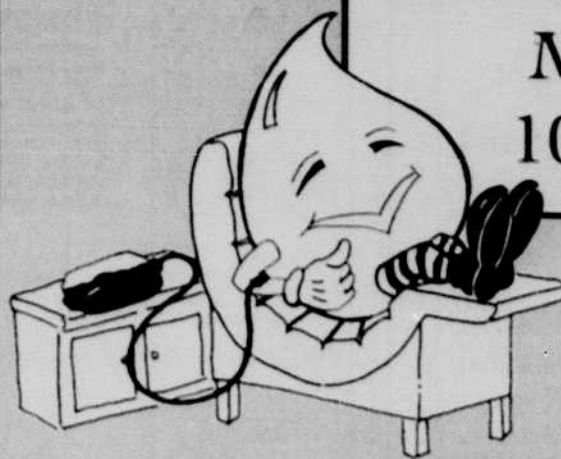
The discrepancies between U.S. and Canadian labels should push the FDA to act, said Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "There's a double standard here, and the American people, particularly children, lose," he said.

Canada in September started requiring the world's toughest tobacco warnings. The black-and-white boxes cover the top third of the front and back of cigarette packs. On the side, cigarette ingredients are listed under the heading "toxic constituents."

While U.S. warnings are careful not to call tobacco a killer, Canada did: "smoking can kill you," says one label. "Tobacco smoke can harm your children" says another, contradicting industry claims that secondhand smoke isn't dangerous.

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